our voice in edmonton's lesbian community

lesbian news ~ what's up? ~ resource directory

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You can find womonspace at: B&D Emporium, Bagel Tree Cafe, Downtown Library, GLCCE, Greenwoods Books, Orlando Books, Princess Theatre, The Roost, Secrets Bar & Grill, Strathcona Library

womonspace is a publication of the Womonspace Social and Recreational Society of Edmonton, a non-profit volunteer organization. Our purpose is to inform and entertain our members and other interested lesbians.

The opinions expressed in *womonspace* do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Womonspace Board. The events, organizations and establishments publicized are not necessarily supported by *womonspace*.

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NEXT ISSUE
October - Dykes and Bikes
November - The Bars

We welcome submissions up to 500 words of interest to local lesbians. Letters to the editor, short fiction, articles, book or movie reviews, poetry, artwork or photographs (minimum 200 dpi files) are all welcomed.

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Cover photo courtesy Marcey Andrews

by shawna l. mochnacz

HERE KITTY, KITTY...

There is definitely something about dykes and their pets. Is it simply the unconditional love? The fact that they won't break up with us over the phone? Or that they can satiate even the most voracious appetite for affection? And everyone and their dog seems to have at least one cat. I never did get my toaster oven when I signed up to be a lesbian, so maybe I also missed the meeting where we were instructed to own one cat, minimum. (And before all you passionate dog owners get your fur ruffled, yes, there are a tonne of you too, but you can't deny that a whole lot of women have cats.) I have always liked dogs, though my two Siamese are the loves of my life. But Sherekhan and Bagheera (the names I borrowed from the Jungle Book) have yet to properly reconcile with my decision to choose love over them when I shipped them off to live with Dad on the farm in Manitoba. The pet owner's worst nightmare ...falling in love with a girl who has terrible allergies! (And don't think it can't happen to you, because I could never have imagined it for myself, and believe me, I have quite the imagination, and love cats more than most people!) Even though that seven year relationship has recently come to an end, I still find myself catless. Would they be happy if I brought them to the city? They've had such freedom on the farm. And I'm sure they had a glimpse of what Kitty Heaven must be, when Dad put a cat door on the house for them, and then left for a week's fishing trip. When he came home, the house was filled with half-live mice, gophers, grasshoppers, and assorted weird bugs. The door's been sealed up with yellow insulation for the past seven years, but Bagheera still waits beside it, hoping one day it will open again! I do get back quite often to visit them, and Dad insists they only "act up" when I'm there. Last Christmas, as I was sleeping on the floor mattress in Dad's den, (and I still don't know how they did it) they managed to heave my hardshell suitcase from the desktop above, down on top of sleeping me. But I know they love me, and they only torture me the first night. Usually. I think I would be quite pissed off to live with someone who refused to learn my name too. (Dad, "The Big Fat One" is Sherekhan, and "The Little Skinny One" is Bagheera!) And she's not fat, she's big-boned. Hi my name is Shawna and I'm a catless lesbian. But not for long.▼

Ed with Sherekhan and Bagheera in front of Dad's wheat field Aug 2002—probably the only two Siamese farm cats in Manitoba!

HIP TO BE GAY

(gay.com)

Lesbian laughmeister Ellen DeGeneres will soon be warming the hallowed seat once occupied by the likes of Paul Lynde and Whoopi Goldberg—the center square on *Hollywood Squares*. DeGeneres makes her debut September 16th, when the revamped game show starts off the season with a new set of writers, a new logo, a new bonus round, as well as the rotating celebrity center square. *Squares* shouldn't affect her still-in-the-planning-stages talk-and-variety show, which is expected to debut in fall 2003.

next month's topic

Dykes and Bikes

Do you ride? On the wild side?? Is your Hog the only pet in your life? Or do you prefer bikes with no motors, that you power through the river valley with your sunday morning brunch energy? Do you pretend to like mountain biking just so that you can wear spandex in public? Get off your bike (carefully!) for just a few minutes, and share with the community! 500 words max, before September 10th.

KARMA COMEDIENNE . . .

(gay.com)

Broadway fanatic Rosie O'Donnell, who played Rizzo in the 1994 stage revival of *Grease*, is back producing. The recently retired talk-show host will be bringing the London musical *Taboo*, written by and starring Boy George, to the New York stage next spring. The show, currently running in London's West End, takes place in the Brit capital during the early '80s.The story focuses on George's love affair with a photographer in the days before the Culture Club front man became famous. While O'Donnell says she's considered turning her own memoir, *Find Me*, into a musical and starring in it herself, she's decided that right now "behind the scenes is more appealing."

OOPS, THEY REDID IT AGAIN!

(gay.com)

The Discovery Channel will unveil a new home decorating show this fall, *Surprise by Design*. Co-hosted by Rebecca Cole (who was a fundraiser for gay organizations before she became a designer) and openly gay Robert Verdi, the show is a thinly veiled knock-off of TLC's runaway hit *Trading Spaces*. In *Surprise by Design*, family members or friends submit photos of an unsuspecting loved one's room, explaining why the co-hosts should swoop in and make the design "don't" into a design "do." Discovery is currently looking for potential subjects (aka "victims") for upcoming shoots. Check out their online application if you have a relative who deserves to be embarrassed on cable TV.

Bored? Try The Board!

by Rae Johnson

Well, it has been five years since I started to volunteer with the Womonspace Board. I have had three official positions, and will now be moving on to (hopefully) my fourth. Each year at the Annual General Meeting before the October dance, we open up all the positions for election. There are nine positions, and we hope to have as many people as possible come out to see which they would be interested in trying. The President, which I currently am, is not overly demanding. I chair the meetings that we have (usually once a month) from November to October, act as the contact to other groups for information on who in our organization they need to talk to, and will golf with anyone that can work around my schedule. The Vice-President fills in for the President, when she is on the golf course. (Who knew?!) Now to the people who keep *Womonspace* running and organized. First of all the Treasurer, keeping the books, making reports to the Board on the finances, paying the bills, golfing with President, and telling the Board what they can and can not afford to do. (It is a little more involved than that and for those of you who haven't heard, our beloved Carol will be leaving this position this year after years of keeping us on the straight and narrow.) The Newsletter Editor is probably another of the most demanding jobs we have. Each newsletter needs articles selected, compiled, edited, sent to the printers, and then distributed around the community. More is required than I really know about, so hopefully the editor, Shawna (who golfs with the President), will add in what is missing. (Ed note: Yup, that's about right Madame Prez, though you left out the part where I beg people to write stuff. And then there's getting tricked into stepping on the President's Kitty Electric Fence! Long story, but I can finally see in colour again.) The Secretary, who is too uppity to golf with the President, attends meetings to take minutes, checks the phone line, and sends messages to the appropriate Board member. The Membership Director is responsible for getting the new memberships and renewals entered into the computer, and keeping the mailing list up to date. Having a computer at home is a big asset, because then you can have a drink and a snack while you are working. When the newsletters get back from the printers, you stuff them in envelopes and mail them. It pretty much takes two evenings a month, so you would think that this person would be able to make time to go golfing with the President. The Activities Director gets all the activities, dances or hayrides organized. It can take a day the week of the activity to get things up and running, but usually the rest of the Board pitches in and helps out wherever they are needed. It can get hectic once in a while, but it is not an overly demanding position, and should leave time for golfing with the President. The Public Relations Director is our voice, makes any statements on behalf of the Board, and helps with advertising that is needed for events or activities. Shame, the President doesn't even know if she can golf. The Volunteer Coordinator helps the Activities Director with the organization of volunteers for activities and events. If the event is co-sponsored, then she will work with a member from the other group to ensure the volunteers are organized. If you like talking on the phone and meeting new

article continues on page 5 . . .

obituary

IRWIN - Maureen Estella Ruth

(1934–2002)

It is with great sadness that the children of Maureen Irwin announce their beloved mother's peaceful passing at her Calgary home on July 30 at the age of 67 years, after a valiant struggle with cancer. Maureen was predeceased by her partner Sheryl McInnes in 1998. Maureen's life was hallmarked by two qualities: love for and service to others. In 1981, Maureen came out of the closet and openly lived her life as a lesbian. The decision to be true to the self she had to that point repressed, charted a path for the rest of her life. Over the next few years, Maureen became a driving force for advocacy within the gay and lesbian community in Edmonton. She was an early member of and counselor for GATE (Gay Alliance Toward Equality), later GALA (Gay and Lesbian Alliance). She was also a volunteer member of Commonwomon Books, a feminist book collective, and helped establish *womonspace*. Part of her advocacy work included speaking about gay and lesbian issues at universities and colleges. She participated in a number of media interviews on human rights, particularly with regard to gay and lesbian rights. She contributed, in thought and in deed, to numerous court decisions related to definition of family, same sex spousal rights, and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. In 1993, her lifetime of volunteerism and activism were formally recognized by several awards, including the Pride Committee of Edmonton's Maureen Irwin Award for Community Service. Maureen was the first to receive the award, which was presented by her daughter Pat, serving as Committee Co-Chair. Maureen was loved and admired by literally hundreds. Our country and our communities are better because of Maureen Irwin.

For the expanded version of this obituary by Maureen's daughter Pat and the following tribute, go to: www.gaycanada.com/womonspace

Remembering A Mentor

by Kristy Harcourt

Maureen Irwin was a friend and mentor to me and to many. We met in the early '90s over several years of campaigns and events. When I would be one of the younger people working on projects and felt dismissed as a "baby dyke," Maureen always stood against that. She had a way of letting you know that she believed in you and that everyone has a place at the table. Over the past few years we became pen-pals–I sent chatty letters and news from meetings and

events. I also frequently asked for her advice. She responded with generous insight and encouragement. For the two years that I coordinated GLCCE, Maureen helped me to understand the work in a greater context. She had a gift for seeing each person's work as a contribution to the larger movement toward change. This made every gain seem important, and made the setbacks seem much smaller. Maureen believed that giving even a bit of your time to someone made a difference. During her memorial, an old friend of hers told a story from the early '80s. Maureen asked if the organization she ran had equal benefits for gays and lesbians. She was told there was no need right now, but they'd put them in place when someone asked. Maureen said, "You have to get problems fixed before the need arises. You offer the same to everyone because it's the right thing to do. Otherwise the focus is on the person who asks; about them begging for something that everyone deserves." I'd never heard that principle put so simply. Maureen was gone, but still teaching me lessons.▼

Bored? Try the Board! (continued from page 3.)

people, then this may interest you, and you may get to golf with the President. This is just a rough sketch of the duties that we all perform over the year–we get to do a lot of fun things together. If you are interested, show up for the meeting in October, and look at the duties for each position. We are always looking for volunteers for our Board and our events, so come out! A great big thank you to all the people who volunteered over this past year, and see you at the September dance.▼

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by cindy d. bruneau

Review

One Man's Trash

by Ivan E. Coyote

On June 28th, around 7:30 pm, our Womonspace Editor waltzed herself into Edmonton's best bookstore, Orlando Books, to attend the book reading/signing to meet and greet Ivan E. Coyote. Just a few days later, Shawna ended up in my living room, conspiring with my girlfriend Marcey (newsletter designer) on who they could get to write a book review on Ivan's new book, *One Man's Trash*. Enter stage left: ME...with a cold can of Pepsi in one hand, and a bag of Oreo cookies in the other. (I quit smoking five months ago and counting!) Wanting to know what was new and exciting in Shawna's life, while at the same time guarding my cookies from Marcey, I sat down to watch these two, as their creative newsletter minds shifted into full speed. I think I lasted around 10 seconds before I grabbed the book from Shawna's hand and said, "I'm a big girl! Let me do it! Pleeeease?!" Shawna agreed on two conditions: One, that there be no Oreo cookie stains left on the book, and two, that I lather her body in vanilla oil while...Anyhoo, here it goes...

One Man's Trash is Ivan E. Coyote's second book to hit the press. Her first book, *Close To Spiderman*, won a Danuta Gleed Literary award, paving the way for her latest book. *One Man's Trash* is a collection of short stories that make up the life of its author. It focuses on three main stages of Coyote's life: Then, Now, and There. All three of these chapters have stories that will tug at your heart, make you laugh, and best of all, open up the flood gates of your own special memories growing up and the simple things of life. After reading the story that involves Coyote's childhood game "Comb Ball" (in which she played hallway hockey on her knees with a bent comb and a ping-pong ball with her cousins), I spent the rest of the evening trying to get my girlfriend to play my childhood game of shutting off all the lights in the house and playing "Rambo" with her cats.

Coyote's endless quest to be understood as an ordinary hometown gal with a queer twist kept me glued to the pages. She perks you up by telling a story about the time she let her girlfriend cut her hair, and then she educates you on how to indulge in self-discovery during a solo road trip. The best part about this book is that after I read it, I instantly said to myself that Ivan E. Coyote is the girl sitting next to you at the bar—she's the one that pulls out her guitar at a campfire and talks more than sings. She's the friend that you want to be stuck with in a long Wal-Mart line up, because she'll help you make fun of all the blue light specials, and analyze the colour patterns

of the cashier's tube top. But most of all, she's the girl with a mind full of adventures and stories, and can package them in a way that made me an instant fan of her character.

I can compare reading this book to being a guest on a ocean cruise. Ivan's book takes you on her own self journey, stopping here and there to explore a few special memories, staying only long enough for you to get the point, laugh or sigh, and then move on. So, if you're looking to meet a great girl, mosey yourself down to Orlando and pick up a copy of *One Man's Trash*.

Oh yeah, and don't forget the Oreo cookies. I, Cindy D. Bruneau rate this book 4 out of 5 Oreos. (The Fifth Oreo has become a short story of my own *wink wink*!)▼

Ivan E. Coyote currently lives in Vancouver, where she is working hard on her third novel, and enjoying her other passion, playing music.

community news

My EVM Family

by Tina Taylor

It's September again, the festivals are nearly over, the root vegetables are ready, new shows are coming on television, kids are back at school, and best of all, choir practice is back on! I always look forward to it, and this year is no different. This is my fourth season with EVM and it gets better every year. I have many friends in the choir. People I never knew before that joined have become very dear to me. My friend Laura would do my make-up (yes, I wear make-up—but only for the stage!). She's moving to Ottawa with her partner—a sad thing for me and the choir, but we're all the better for knowing her and I know we'll keep in touch. Joan (our new president) and I have gotten to know each other quite well. I like her style and she is going to make a great new leader! Marie—she's something. Sectional practices have often been held at her house, and I'm always early. So we gossip, or she tells me stories of her wild youth! Rae—one of our straight members—not that it matters—glows with warmth. I felt a connection the first minute I saw her.

Pianoguy (Kirk) is a real mentor, and he always lets me know he's proud of me. Flamboyant Blair—you can't miss him—sure makes me laugh, and holds our tenor section together. Kirk S. started the same year I did. We've watched each other grow to become true singers. We are two people who were very shy about singing in '99. Now we are anchors in our respective sections. I even did a duet with my partner at our last concert—I'm a diva now! EVM is a non-audition choir. You don't need choir singing experience or be able to read music (I don't). You just have to like singing, having fun, making new friends, and commit to weekly practices. Our membership dues are the most reasonable of any choir in the city! We're a small group. Our last concert was a reunion celebrating 10 years of GLBT singing. It was great having extra voices—the sound was so much richer. Paula, our conductor, issued a challenge at the end of last season: that we all bring a friend to the new season and hopefully double our numbers. All are welcome to join—we'd love to have you! Our rehearsals start up September 9th 7:00–9:30 PM at Garneau United Place (11148-84 Ave). We meet every Monday and the first three are open to new membership (Sept. 9th, 16th and 23rd). We'll have people to greet you at the door, so don't be shy. I can assure you, you'll enjoy the experience! If you'd like further information, please phone 479-2038.▼

homoscopes

by the Amazing Saltini

virgo
aug23 - sep22

After some intense introspection, you're entering a creative phase—with the main project being yourself. As you remake your image, make sure it's into someone you'd like to have around.

pisces
feb19 - mar20

What began as a disappointment now looks to be a stroke of good luck. You just dodged the bullet in a major case of "careful what you wish for." Be grateful.

aries
mar21 - apr19

With all of the responsibilities piled on your shoulders, only you will understand your need to explore new things. Just make sure you leave time for those who need your attention.

taurus
apr20 - may20

"People are the problem." That was how you saw it most of the summer. With a little compassion, those "problems" could become friendships you won't know how you lived without.

gemini
may21 - jun21

Active Gemini has been in a navel-gazing mood these days. Thoughts have little meaning if they're not expressed, so go out and meet some sounding-boards.

cancer
jun22 - jul22

It's not a good idea to reveal too much about your feelings right now. You need the security of keeping your secrets to yourself. Looking mysterious is just a bonus.

leo
jul23 - aug22

You've been forming the plan for a while. Now is the time to start enacting it. If it's what you really want, only you can make it happen.

libra
sep23 - oct23

Your social nature has brought new friendships into your life. Some of these relationships will bring such emotions to the surface that you'll realize things will never be the same. It's a good thing!

scorpio
oct24 - nov21

Someone must have moved the fence when you weren't looking, because you've fallen off it. Now that you've made your choice, do everything in your power to make it last.

sagittarius
nov22 - dec21

Take a look at the garden you started this spring, the seeds you planted, the care you gave it, the weeds you pulled. Soon you'll be able to enjoy its harvest. The same is true of your life.

capricorn
dec22 - jan19

You enter September with confidence and clarity. While your mind will tell you what you need to do, let your heart lead you in how to do it.

aquarius
jan20 - feb18

Your summer was an interesting mix of sparkling moments and disappointments, lessons learned and memories shared. Go into this fall without the baggage of expectations.

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All of Our Critters

by Bernice Lumkad

When our friends talk about their pets, it's usually Thumper (the cat) or Laite (the dog). When we talk about our pets, our listeners have to be attentive or they'll be left wondering, "What?????" You see, my partner and I live on a small farm where we raise organic beef cattle. We also have seven horses, a couple of cats and a dog. All of our critters have names. If they didn't have names they would just be another hairy face.

Buttercup and Bernice

Our milk cow, Buttercup, has become a very important member of our family. Not only does she provide us with fresh milk but she also provides us with the most important ingredient for making ice cream. We also make cheese and butter. Buttercup is special because she has character. She is very gentle, and only on the rare occasion will she be cranky and swat you in the face with her tail—with remarkable accuracy while being milked. She has never really kicked, but rather used her leg to forcefully push you aside. I know that if she wanted to, she could take out a kneecap in an instance. She loves back rubs, and if you do it right, she will swing and move her head in rhythm with the rubbing. Her baby this year, Princess, has a lot of her mother's attitude and is as cute as ever. I would have been the last one to admit that a cow could become so special had Buttercup not come along.

Our horses, Dawn, Sierra, Romeo, Jasmin, Jigger, Smokey and Bailey, are also very special to us. Jigger, a quarter horse stallion is our newest addition. We have to learn how to work with him as a stallion. He is very gentle and loves to be petted, a trait that we see being passed on to his offspring. Smokey is our mare and is an excellent mother. This spring when her baby was born, we had the opportunity to see the special event. After Bailey was born we were able to witness her attempts to stand. Unlike calves, baby horses sort of just spring to their feet rather than flopping around. When Bailey stood up her feet were set wide apart. Smokey helped her get balanced by gently nipping her feet so as to position them in a more stable stance. Smokey then positioned her body to help facilitate the first nursing by Bailey. After watching this demonstration, I was profoundly moved by nature's ability to provide. We have three seasoned veterans (Dawn, Romeo, and Sierra) that we take on trail rides. Jasmin is still growing up and next year will find out what it is like to be a contributing member on our farm.

I would be remiss to neglect to mention our cats and dog. Living on a farm, they all have important jobs to do. Buddy, our dog, has the job of keeping small rodents such as gophers, skunks,

article continues on page 12 . . .

I Love My Cat; I Hate My Cat

by Kari-ann Kuperis

I love my cat when he's perched atop his kitty condo looking all regal (I call it his 'lion face'). I hate my cat when his paint-peeling yowls awaken me from a sound sleep at 3 AM. I love my cat when he crawls underneath the covers with me, keeping me warm and feeling all snuggly. I hate my cat when the sound of his sprinkler-like vomiting awakens me from a sound sleep at 4 AM. I love my cat when he lays on his back, legs akimbo (I call it his 'porn star' pose). I hate my cat when he goes all hillbilly and tries to hump his sister, with the banjoes awakening me from a sound sleep at 5 AM.

Photo courtesy Kari-ann Kuperis

Bruce with his special friend Heidi

I have a very complicated relationship with my cat. I mean cats. I actually have two cats: Bruce and Annie. Bruce is named for my mother's former fiancé (something to do with his testicles—not my idea!), and I named Annie after Annie Lennox, whom I love. They're actually litter mates, which makes the whole humping thing even more disgusting. They...(sorry, I had to stop typing for a second—Bruce was playing with matches). They look nothing alike. Annie is white and fluffy, with tan and grey patches, and beautiful yellow/green eyes. Bruce is fat, and gray, and has one fang sticking out of the side of his mouth—I haven't been able to find the horns and forked tail yet.

Personality wise, they're also quite dissimilar. I refer to...(sorry—Bruce again. He was running with scissors). I refer to Annie as My Precious Little Lamb, and Bruce as, variously, Little Bastard, Poohead, Fartknocker, and, when he's being cute—Big Guy. Annie is as sweet as pie, content to sleep, eat, purr, and look incredibly cute. Bruce has...(sorry yet again. Bruce was tying his sister to the train tracks). Bruce has a variety of behaviours, including, but not limited to: yowling, vomiting, clawing up the carpet, skittering around in the bathtub and crying, and shoving his sister out of the way so he can snarf down her dinner as well as his own. Did I mention that he's also diabetic? He requires a shot of insulin every 12 hours, which is loads of fun, and does wonders for things like vacations, sleeping in, and spontaneity. Mind you, since I refer to the insulin-shot-giving action as 'shooting' him, I take a perverse pleasure in making announcements along the line of "I can't make the 6 o'clock showing of 'Booty Call' because I've got to shoot my cat at 6:30," and "Gosh, I'd love to stay late and write a news release on some boring as hell government initiative that no one cares about, but I've gotta go home and shoot my cat." It's a small thing, but it makes me happy. Being a dyke, I could write on this topic for pages and pages, but I've got to go–Bruce is in the bedroom removing the 'Do not remove these tags' tags from my mattress.▼

Homecoming

by Suzanne Dawson

Last night at 3:56 AM driving home on Highway #2, I burst into tears. I was coming home from a vacation with my parents, who were fast asleep in the back seat, from Austin, Texas where we had been visiting my brother. At that moment, a frightening thought occurred to me: what was I going home to? I'd had a fairly traumatic few weeks before my vacation, and I knew was returning home to an empty apartment. My tears continued until I was threatened to be sideswiped by several semi trucks due to my erratic tear-induced driving.

I arrived home with a deep sigh... until I opened my apartment door. They must have heard my voice in the hallway. Or perhaps they had been waiting for me. Four bleary-eyed cats began a welcome home meowing serenade as soon as my door swung open. They immediately crowded around me, begging to be picked up and loved, to be assured that I hadn't abandoned them when I left them in a stranger's company for twelve days. I smiled, and lifted up each one in turn. My littlest, most demanding kitten was first. China smelled me up and down, licked my cheek, and then cried to be put down so she could sniff out my luggage. My eldest, Bonanza Jellybean, was next—she needed to be coddled for much longer, to know for sure that I was not going to leave her again any time soon. Then Mr. Ripley, the only man in my life, who needed to be carried around, to look out the window so he could see our reflection together, mother and son. Cisco, suffering from the infamous middle-child syndrome, does not like to be picked up, but I suffocated her with suitable affection so she felt justified in doing her feigned-running-away routine, only to run right back to me as soon as my back was turned.

I soon laid my very weary head to rest (I had been on the road for three and a half days with only me and my parents—not recommended for the faint of heart!). My sweetheart, Jellybean, spooned with me, her sweet fur pressed against my face. I burrowed in and smelled the familiar scent that I have only been able to equate with the smell of maple syrup (not exactly Chanel Egoiste, but it will do). China cuddled into my other side, reaching her paw out to touch my cheek as she drifted to sleep. Mr. Ripley and Cisco settled at my feet, making sure to make contact with me with at least one of their body parts. Despite the heartache I felt about my return home only hours ago, these sweet little creatures, whom I feel lucky to call my babies, made life more tolerable last night. And really, what else could one ask for from the universe? I am indeed a lucky girl.▼

All of Our Critters (continued from page 10.)

porcupines and the like, away from the yard, as well as warn us when strangers drive in. His hearing has deteriorated but his sense of smell is keen as ever. The cats, Whiskers and Fearless, are supposed to control the mouse populations. Whiskers has as taste for our feathered friends, so we had to put up controls to curb his activity. Fearless is still a big kitten at heart, and as hard as we tried not to, she is spoiled like any other youngster. Our critters have rewarded us with many experiences—most of them very subtle but extremely powerful. We wouldn't have it any other way.▼

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Shit Happens

by Joan White Calf

Do you care to be sniffed or licked, or do you just want a good buck? These are important issues to consider when thinking about the responsibility of being a pet parent. Someone who gets bored easily may not do well on a long term basis with the daily routine of exercising the dog before pulling a normal workday. Especially when urban dwellers have to face the reality of scooping poop at least once or twice a day. If you have image problems, you may want to avoid being seen bending over to pick up shit in your neighbourhood. Though, it may help your esteem to know that it's much more acceptable in this culture to be seen cleaning up your pet's poop than your own. Go figure.

Another fact of pet ownership, for anyone who wants to love and be loved unconditionally, is that it's a degrading job, much like parenthood. You may find absolute fulfillment in being a partner to something other than human, but others may judge you on the behavior of said pet. Animals, being as intuitive as they are, may tend to mind fuck you by acting very foreign around anyone whose opinion really matters to you. The horsey or doggie or little budgie that performs the most amazing interactive feats when you are alone, may become the most obnoxious pest in the presence of others. Your professionally trained horse will pretend to be a wild mustang when its paying owner comes to collect it. The well-behaved dog may choose to pee on the one and only pregnant female who has dropped in to visit you. The "tamed budgie" will fly around uncontrollably, scaring the child of the newly single parent you are hoping to ask on a date. The various routines that you and your pet child have grown into comfortably may not work for outsiders—which might add

J. White Calf original

pets

new stressors to you and your non-human dependent. We all know that kitty really should have her own feeding table, but if she has to fend off her step-doggie-sister's-big-fat-intrusive-tail-wagging butt to have a quick meal, it may mean that her only moment of peace is on the kitchen counter. You and kitty are totally okay with this small necessity of daily living, but your visitors may be severely grossed out—even though you interject often during casual conversations that you vacuum everyday, and disinfect at least three times a week. But in this new age of post disaster terrorism and new found tolerance, all we need to do is focus on a few small details of pet propriety. After all, socialization of you and your little pretty is essential to the overall well being of the all of us.▼

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what's up in september!

. . . that we know about!

thursday, september 5
7:30 pm-10 pm
GLCCE's GRRLS GAMES NIGHT, [note to self: call Kari and think up something funny for this blurb so that people will come out to games night, bring their games, maybe a nice snack to share, oh, hey, there's a bunny down there...I should check on my laundry and really]

thursday, september 19, 12-1 pm
Room 7-114 Education North Bldg, U of A. Welcome to AGAPE and Session by the Alberta Teachers' Association's Safe-and-Caring Schools Project. Contact andre.grace@ualberta.ca or kwells@ualberta.ca

friday, september 20, 8 pm
Stanley Milner Theatre, Downtown Public Library, Fall Equinox and CD Release Concert of Jennifer Berezan with Nina Gerber, Jami Sieber and Anthony Costello. Tickets $22 at Orlando Books 432-7633.

COMING SOON:

saturday, october 19, 8 pm
Bonnie Doon Hall. Alberta Roots Music Society presents the Launch of Kat Danser's debut CD: *Ascension*. Tickets at Orlando Books, Tix On The Square, Clea's Bookshoppe, and Blackbyrd Music.

saturday, november 16, 12-4 pm
Westmount Hall,
Womonspace Craft Fair

Photo courtesy Tricia Dwernichuk

Getting Lucky

by Tricia Dwernichuk

"If you are lonely, you should get a cat." My friend's advice rang through my head as I found myself standing in front of a small cage of kittens. I must admit I never liked cats. When I was growing up, my best friend had a house full of cats, and I didn't like any of them. "Too noisy, too messy and too much hair." I always thought. And yet, here I was picking out a kitten. "What the hell," I thought, "I am definitely lonely." That night, driving home from Camrose, this little kitten sat on my shoulder the entire trip. Even I thought it was cute. "What should I name you?" I thought. He was black and white and so tiny. Halloween was coming up and I thought of 'Pumpkin,' but it didn't really fit. I will deny this if asked in public, but I ended up naming him after that Britney Spears song that has the line "Isn't she so lucky?" I kind of thought it was appropriate seeing as how I had rescued him, and maybe in some way he was about to rescue me.

Well, that was two years ago. Lucky and I have developed a love/hate relationship. He has gotten into the habit of licking my head when I'm sleeping. Hence the nickname 'Licky.' I also refer to him as 'Bitey-Biterson,' as he likes to nip at my heels and legs and anything else he can sink his teeth into. But he also likes to curl up on my lap when I'm watching tv and he always knows when I need some attention. So, what is the moral of this little story? Well, there really isn't one. I am happy to have found him. I still get lonely, but I haven't ran out to get more cats. Lucky does a good job of keeping me company. There is room for improvement, but at least he's not Bruce!▼

Jackie Yurko B.Sc. N.D.
Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine

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Edmonton, Alberta
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Four is Enough

Rhonda Lothammer and Poochie the Poodle

by Rhonda Lothammer

First there was one. A tri-coloured smooth collie with expressive eyebrows and a look in his eyes that could break your heart. Actually, when I think about it, there were two beasts then, and they were there before I came into the picture, so what could I say? The border collie-greyhound cross (can you say RUN?!) and obsessive-compulsive, is my partner's brother's dog, and at first only lived with us off and on. Now, she and her owner are full-time housemates. And then, suddenly, with the death of a close relative, there were three. Two and a half really, because the ratty little old poodle that showed up on our doorstep is much smaller than the other two dogs. 'The Inheritance' we jokingly call her. She's sixteen years young and still kicking—arthritic legs, bad teeth, and all. The fourth pooch appeared by accident. At least that's what I've been told by my mate. You see, she'd only gone to the SPCA to buy the poodle a sweater (sure, blame it on the old lady). Then, inevitably, their eyes met through the chain link kennel, and suddenly we'd acquired a fat black spaniel, virtually bursting with anxiety and love. So, here I sit covered in dog hair and kisses, surrounded by four handsome hounds I wouldn't give up for the world.▼

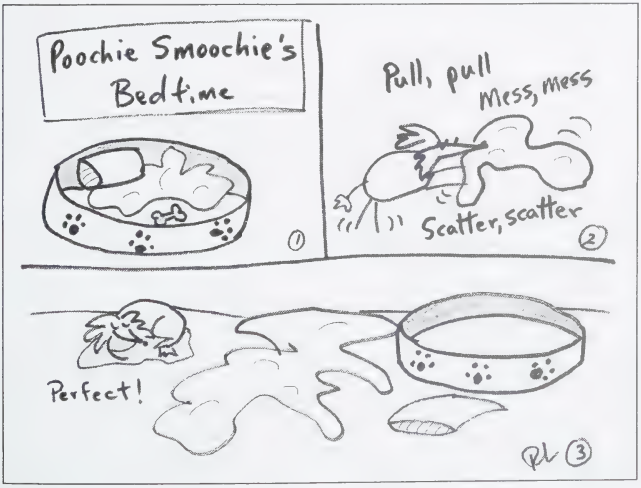


Photo and cartoon courtesy Rhonda Lothammer

Top and middle left photos courtesy Bernice Lumkad; bottom photo courtesy Stephen Danser

Womonspace 2002 Golf Weekend

by Bernice Lumkad

On July 20, 70 plus women gathered at the Country Nine golf course near Bashaw for the 3rd annual Womonspace Golf Classic. Besides a little wind, the weather was good and the course was in great shape, despite the arid conditions. At the end of the afternoon we enjoyed a tasty BBQ supper with all the fixins.

A special thank you to our sponsors: *Womonspace*, Country Nine Golf Course, Pridewear Canada, Intimate Attitudes, B&K Ranch, Bently Nevada, Dial Printing, Mumby's Tree Services, Wholistic Therapy, Mac Tools and Kat Danser. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with this year's event:

Rae, Sal, Gerri, Louise, Paulin, Marie, Kris, Bonnie, Dana, Shelly, and of course, who could forget the refreshment cart girls. On behalf of all of the participants, I would like to congratulate Carol Cattell for putting on a successful tournament, and acknowledge the time and energy she put in to organizing it. Even though this year's event has just finished, Carol has indicated that she is already considering the suggestions and ideas participants gave her for next year's event.▼

PRIZES WERE AWARDED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

1st place
Teal, Karen, Roseanne, Jen

2nd place
Irene, Francine, Lise, Bernice

Last place
Jennifer, Sarah, Jenn, Trish

Most lost balls
Rae, Wendy, Mary, Frankie

Most balls in the water
Sal, Gerri, Roxanne, Shelly

Longest Drive
Gail

Longest Putt
Colleen

Closest to the pin
Sandy

Shortest drive
Heather

Closest to the pig
Sandy

Most total putts
Cathy, Mary, Colleen, Holly

Fewest total putts
Carol, Heather, Louise, Debbie

resource directory

List your organization or event here. Call 482-1794 or womonspace@hotmail.com

arts

Circle Dance First Wednesday of the month, 7:30 PM at Southminster Steinhauer United Church, 10740-19 Ave. Call Ann at 435-2288.

Edmonton Vocal Minority Mixed voice choir. Join as a singer or a supporter. Call 479-2038 or evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Out at the Symphony For gay and lesbian music lovers and their friends. Call Paul at the ESO 429-1992, ext 240.

athletics

Curling League Fridays at Ottewell Curling Club. No previous experience required. Call Lance at 479-0211 or ldeeka@hotmail.com

Making Waves Swim Club Sundays 8 PM and Thursdays 8:30 PM at Bonnie Doon Pool. Tuesdays 8:30 PM at Scona Pool. Call Jan at 454-9987 or makingwaves_edm@yahoo.com

Northern Titans Ten pin bowling league. Saturdays 4:45 PM. Call Garry or Dave at 426-6311 or davegarry711@home.com

Women's Slowpitch Season runs May–Sept. $30 fee includes end of season party. Still open to drop-ins. Mixed group. For info call Tina at 423-9925 or fixitina@hotmail.com

churches

Affirm United A support group for members of the United Church of Canada. Call Therese at 446-6176.

Brethren Mennonite Council For gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Call Heather at 987-4974, or email jonrach@ msn.com

Dignity Edmonton For gay, lesbian and bisexual Roman Catholics and friends. Call Bernard at 451-1794 or Joseph at 481-4218, trainlvr@ compusmart.ab.ca

Lambda Christian Community Church A non-denominational, evangelical Christian church. Sundays at 7 PM at Garneau United Place, 11148-84 Ave. Call 474-0753.

Lutherans Concerned A spiritual community for GLBT and straight people gathering monthly for worship, sharing and friendship. Individual support, resources and a safe space for spiritual questions. Call 426-0905, lcedmonton@lcna.org

McDougall United Church Welcomes people of all sexual orientations. Sundays at 10:30 AM at 10086 McDonald Dr. Call 428-1818.

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church Welcomes all sexual orientations and is an affirming United Church. Sundays at 10 AM at 10740-19 Ave. Call the church office at 435-2028 or Debbie at 987-4974.

Unitarian Church of Edmonton Worship and services of union. Sundays at 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM at 12530-110 Ave. Call 454-8073, uce@ compusmart.ab.ca

focus groups

AGAPE A focus group set up to consider issues in relation to sex-and-gender differences and schooling. It is designed to meet the needs of LGBT undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff in the Faculty of Education. As well, we welcome practicing teachers and other interested members of the larger community. Contact andre.grace@ualberta.ca or wellsk@icrossroads.com

hangouts for lesbians

The Bagel Tree: 10345 Whyte Ave; **Cafe Mosaics:** 10844 Whyte Ave; **The Roost:** 10345-104 St; **Secrets Bar & Grill:** 10249-107 St; **Urban Grind:** 10124-124 St.

leisure groups

Breakfast Club Second Sunday of the month. Call Dianne at 433-0374 before PM the Fri before to ensure your reservation.

Classics Social group for lesbians over 40. Second Sunday of the month. Call Dori at 487-9510.

Liatris Society Gardening club for all. Call William at 474-7328 or liatrissociety@hotmail.com

National Leather Association Social evening on the second Friday of each month 8:30 PM at The Roost, 10345-104 St.

Open Door Club Social club for Grant MacEwan Community College students and friends. opendoorclub@hotmail.com

OUTreach For LGBT students, staff, and faculty at U of A. Tuesdays 5 PM, Athabasca Hall. outreach@ualberta.ca

support services

Alcoholics Anonymous Gay and lesbian meetings. Call 424-5900.

Bisexual Support Group GLCCE, last Wednesday of the month, 7:30 PM.

Edmonton Rainbow Business Association Second Tuesday of the month 7:30 PM at Orlando Books. Call Bill 422-6207.

Equal=Alberta For equal treatment of all Albertans. Call 488-3234 or wqualalberta@ hotmail.com

GLCCE Gay and Lesbian Community Center for drop-in, peer counseling and library. M–F 1:30 PM–5:30 PM, and 7–10 PM. Thursdays 7:30 PM are women's drop-in. Call 488-3234 or glcce@compusmart. ab.ca, 9912-106 St.

ICARE Interfaith Center for AIDS/HIV Resources and Education. Call Mickey Wilson at 448-1768 or icare@oanet.com

Naturopathy for Women Free information sessions on naturopathy with a focus on women's health. First Monday of the month 7 PM Park Allen Hall, 11104-65 Ave. Call Jackie Yurko at 430-4553.

PFLAG/T Support for parents, families and friends of LGBT. Third Tuesday of the month 7:30 PM at GLCCE. Call Lynne at 462-5958 or pflag@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Transgender/Transsexual Support GLLCE, second and fourth Tuesdays of the month 7:30 PM. Info: 488-3234.

Yours, Mine, Ours & Us Support group for LGBT parents, co-parents and partners. Call Liz at 415-5434 or Garry at 426-6311.

Youth Understanding Youth Social and support group for LGBT age 25 and under. Saturdays 7–9 PM at GLCCE or yuyedm@hotmail.com

radio

Gaywire Lesbian, gay and bisexual news, interviews and music. Thursdays 6–7 PM on CJSR 88.5 FM.

Sonic Sisters Women's music hosted by Cori Brewster Tuesdays 7–8 PM on CJSR 88.5 FM.

classifieds

Classified ad deadline is 5 PM on September 10th. Three lines max. Free to members, $5 to non-members. Contact womonspace @hotmail.com

accommodations

Lesbian couple seeks roommate to share large house in Ottwell area. $350/month + 1/3 util. Must love dogs. Call Shelly 468-5631.

For Rent: Whitefish, Montana! Cozy condo with full kitchen and fireplace available. Reasonable rates in Cnd $$. Beautiful mountain setting, perfect for a romantic golf or ski holiday. Call Laurelie 450-4227.

Seashell Housekeeping Units. Down East Nova Scotia Hospitality by Marie & Nan. June 15–Oct 15. (902) 224-1563

Quiet country vacation cabins near Jasper, AB. Open year round. Call Mary or Carol toll free 1-866-817-9700/www.oldentrance.ab.ca

opportunities

For Sale: Stainless Steel Frigidaire Pro Gallery Series fridge, 26 cubic feet. Side by side doors with ice/water dispenser. $1000 firm. Quite possibly the most beautiful fridge in the world. Call Shawna 973-3781.

Calling all vendors. The Womonspace Craft Fair will take place at Westmount Hall Saturday, Nov 16 from 12–4 PM. Call 482-1794 to book your table. $10/members, $20/non-members.

We are a group of citizens concerned about making schools safer and more inclusive for LGBT students and staff in Alberta. We are looking for info on what's happening in your organization for support. Please respond to Jo-Ann Kolmes jkolmes@chiverslaw.com

announcements

Big sisters Hunter and Sloan are happy to announce the birth of their sister G. Hart on July 2, 2002. Moms Leslie and Jean feel truly blessed with their house full of girls.

Visit Toni Vere's new website: http://www.tonivere.com

messages

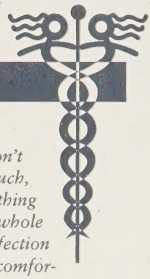
MT: Next time I won't forget the pegs! BB

To H: I want to run through the halls of my high school... :) SM

Barbz-Happy Big 4-0! Love Sandy

Big K Mmm-huuh!! :P

ask dr. dyke



Dear Dr. Dyke,
I just found out that the girl I've been dating recently is going to move away due to work. The problem is, I think I'm falling in love with her, which doesn't happen very often. Should I risk a long distance relationship, or break up with her?

Signed, Squidward Octopus

Dear SO,
Well, that's a toughie. Dr. Dyke's own experience with a long distance relationship was not particularly favorable, and then there's the whole issue of getting a cell phone bill for $543.67. And love was actually established on both sides of the phone for a few years before that, so maybe your first plan of action could be to tell her how you feel. Then perhaps you could consider another option: moving to wherever with her. Unless she's moving to anywhere in Saskatchewan, in which case, just break up with her. Just kidding, Dr. Dyke loves all the provinces equally. Except Saskatchewan. Just kidding again. If she is falling in love with you too, then maybe she would consider not moving? Most people value love above all, and are willing to risk quite a bit. Sure a job or career is important too, paying taxes, buying groceries, contributing to society in a positive way, recycling, etc., but what kind of movie would THAT make? Sometimes you just have to follow your heart at all costs, and accept the consequences of ending up alone, broke, and in Saskatchewan, eating popcorn and cat food while you save up to move back.

Dear Dr. Dyke,
My partner and I don't usually disagree on much, but lately the one thing bugging me is the whole public display of affection thing. I'm not at all comfortable with it, and my Honey seems more and more obsessed with it. It's putting a strain on us to the point where I don't feel like even going out in public with her anymore. Any advice?

Signed, Patrick Starfish

Dear PS,
The answer always starts with Dr. Dyke's favorite question: Have you told her how you feel? If not, don't wait another groping minute! If she really does love you, chances are she'll respect your wishes and back off with the fondling in Costco. Maybe exploring why buying in bulk turns her on would also be a good topic for the next therapy session. Then perhaps discuss what would be comfortable for you in the PDA department. Holding hands on a fairly secluded autumnal walk through Cooking Lake Park: yes. Having her tongue in your ear at your work's corporate picnic: no. Having super quiet discreet sex at Silver City: of course, yes. Snuggling at your Weight Watchers meeting: probably not. And it wouldn't hurt either to get to the root of why you don't like being dry humped at the bar—maybe this is more your issue than hers!

THE 'DOCTOR' IS IN!

Send your questions to the relationship/life/sex/home improvement dyke expert!

Write to doctordyke69@hotmail.com

womonspace dance

Saturday, September 21

Leave a message at 482-1794 to volunteer.

Alberta Avenue Hall

Pridewear t-shirts, tank tops, golf shirts and more

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will be on sale to raise funds for special events.

9 PM to 1 AM

Featuring DJ Annie

the top five benefits to becoming a womonspace member:

5 You are guaranteed a newsletter, hot off the press, before any hit the streets!

4 You get something in the mail once a month that has nothing to do with your friend Visa or Mastercard.

3 It arrives discreetly at your home in a nice newsletter-sized manila envelope, just in case you still live with your boyfriend!

2 You support a great community group, and get cool discounts for dances, and other activities.

1 The distribution locations run out of *womonspace* quickly and you don't handle disappointment well. Things get smashed. Nobody wins. Just join already!

womonspace membership form

(Confidentiality Assured)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

12 month membership fee:

$15/single or $25/couple (with one newsletter)

$15/associate (Friends of Womonspace; newsletter only)

Cheque or money order payable to: Womonspace, Box 128 Main P.O., Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3K4 Phone: (780) 482-1794 (low income available)

- ❑ New Member ❑ Renewal ❑ Associate
- ❑ I would like to be a volunteer
- ❑ Please mail my newsletter to my home
- ❑ I will pick up the newsletter at dances and events
- ❑ I would not like to be a volunteer at dances and events
- ❑ I would like to receive a copy of the Womonspace Constitution

Total Enclosed:
$ _____